are also asking ‘ Does the Hon. Minister know ’. They are asking about things which are not connected with the main question. That is not correct. ‘ Question time ’ is meant only for putting questions and not for expressing opinions.

SRI K. VINAYAKAM : ‘ Is it a fact ’. என்று ஆரம்பித்துக் கேட்கலாம். (Mr. Speaker rose.) I shall explain it, Sir. It is a well known parliamentary practice in every democratic State and in the Mother of Parliaments that even if a Member is not willing to ask a question, he can indirectly let in answer and preface it with the words ‘ Is it not a fact ’. It has been allowed by the predecessor of the Hon. Speaker, by all Hon. Speakers of our State, of other States, of the Lok Sabha and by the Speaker of the Parliament in England.

MR. SPEAKER : I am not aware of the period when Sri K. Vinayakam was in the Parliament of England. But in the state of things as they stand at present, what I have said is correct.

Enquiry against a Madras Corporation official.

* 695 *Q.*—SRI A. A. RASHEED : Will the Hon. the Minister for Local Administration be pleased to state—

(*a*) when the enquiry against the conduct of the official of the Corporation of Madras was started ; and

(*b*) the cause for the delay in submitting the findings of the enquiry?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM : (*a*) & (*b*) The allegations against the conduct of an official of the Corporation of Madras are being investigated. It will not be in the public interest to furnish any details of the case, name, designation, etc., of the officer at this stage.

SRI A. A. RASHEED : Is it a fact, Sir, that the officer concerned has been suspended for the last three months and if so, what are the charges framed against him and when do the Government propose to launch prosecution against the person concerned?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM : Sir, I have already stated that this is under investigation.

MR. SPEAKER : When the matter is under investigation, it will not be fair or proper to ask any question on it.

Prayers in Schools and Colleges

* 696 *Q.*—SRI N. K. PALANISAMI : Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government have received recently any communication from the Centre that students should assemble every day in their schools and colleges for a universal prayer or for a brief period of silent meditation ; and

(*b*) if so, the action taken by the Government in the matter?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM : (*a*) No Sir.

(*b*) Does not arise.